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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,878	12/05/2001	Robert L. Noonan	1662-50200 JMH (P99-2496)	5122
23505	7590	05/03/2004	EXAMINER	
CONLEY ROSE, P.C. P. O. BOX 3267 HOUSTON, TX 77253-3267			AUVE, GLENN ALLEN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	3
DATE MAILED: 05/03/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/006,878	NOONAN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Glenn A. Auve	2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 15-17 and 19 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,7-14 and 18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 2-6 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "each comparator having a first input and a second input, a threshold voltage coupled to the first input and the second input coupled to a bus signal from both said first and second buses" as recited in claim 9 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 is rejected because it is not clear if each of the comparators is for causing the same signal on one of the buses to be driven or if each is for causing a signal to be driven on separate ones of the buses. It is also not clear what is meant by "a threshold voltage coupled to the first input and the second input coupled to a bus signal from both said first and second buses."

Claims 10-14 are rejected because they depend on claim 9.

Claim 11 is also rejected based on lack of positive antecedent basis of "said threshold" on line 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1,7,8 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Schutte, U.S. Pat. No. 6,038,623.

As per claim 1, Schutte shows a host processor (any of the devices 10, e.g. 10(c); an input device coupled to said host processor (e.g. 10(b)); and a bridge (14) coupled to said host processor, said bridge couples together a first bus (12a) and a second bus (12b); wherein said bridge drives a signal on the first bus if said signal is being actively driven by a device coupled to the second bus, but not if said signal is only being actively driven by a device coupled to the first bus (throughout at least cols. 6-10, wherein in a normal or low speed mode of operation for communicating between the two buses the bridge passes signals between devices on the second bus with the first bus, but when the first bus is operating in the high speed mode the signals passed among devices on the first bus are not passed on to the second bus). Schutte shows all of the elements recited in claim 1.

As for claim 7, the argument for claim 1 applies. Schutte also shows that said first and second buses comprise buses on which more than one device can actively and concurrently drive a signal on the buses (inherent in the I²C bus). Schutte shows all of the elements recited in claim 7.

As for claim 8, the argument for claim 1 applies. Schutte also shows that said first and second buses comprise I²C buses (throughout the specification). Schutte shows all of the elements recited in claim 8.

As per claim 18, Schutte shows a host processor (e.g. 10(c)); and a bridge (14) coupled to said host processor, said bridge couples together a first bus and a second bus, said bridge includes a means for determining whether a bus is actively asserting a bus signal and driving said signal on the other of said buses (throughout at least cols. 6-10, wherein in a normal or low speed mode of operation for communicating between the two buses the bridge passes signals between devices on the second bus with the first bus, but when the first bus is operating in the high speed mode the signals passed among devices on the first bus are not passed on to the second bus). Schutte shows all of the elements recited in claim 18.

6. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gephardt et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,625,829.

As per claim 18, Gephardt et al. (Gephardt) shows a host processor (fig.2,(26)); and a bridge (94) coupled to said host processor, said bridge couples together a first bus (24) and a second bus (46), said bridge includes a means for determining whether a bus is actively asserting a bus signal and driving said signal on the other of said buses (at least for example in col.8, lines 38-47). Gephardt shows all of the elements recited in claim 18.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The other cited references show bus bridge systems or systems related to the I²C bus.

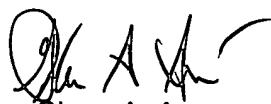
8. Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: claims 2,9,15, and 19 include various limitations directed to comparators that are not present in the prior art.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenn A. Auve whose telephone number is (703) 305-9638. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00 AM-5:30 PM, every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Glenn A. Auve
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2111

gaa
April 29, 2004